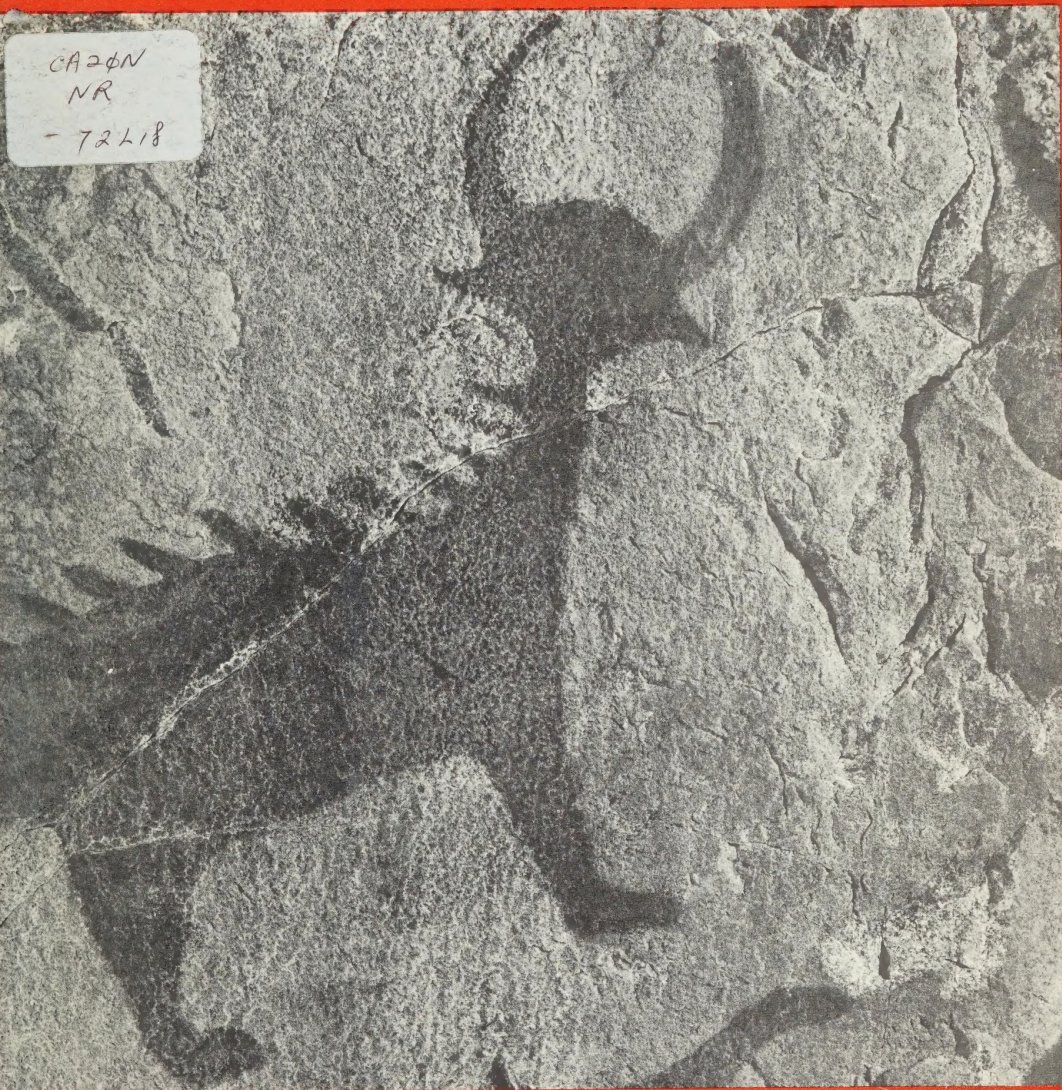



# Lake Superior Provincial Park

Ontario

## A Summary of Response to the Preliminary Plan





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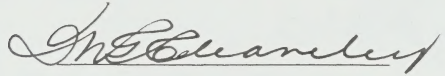
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The Ministry of Natural Resources would like to express its appreciation to all those who participated in this stage of the planning of Lake Superior Provincial Park.

Several issues have been raised which require careful consideration. The intent of this review is not to solve the issues, but merely to identify them.



W. G. Cleaveley  
Regional Director  
Northeastern Region



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Ministry of Natural Resources

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## **1. Introduction**

The Preliminary Master Plan for Lake Superior Provincial Park was released for public review in June 1977. Its purpose was to provide the public with a firm proposal for their discussion and comment in order that an Approved Master Plan could be completed that effectively incorporated public opinion. In this context, the document proposed detailed policy guidelines for the orderly development and effective management of the Park. In addition to the Preliminary Master Plan, a "Highlights" pamphlet, which summarized the main proposals of the plan and indicated where complete copies of the plan could be obtained, was widely circulated.

The purpose of this report is to describe the methods that were used to encourage public response to the Preliminary Master Plan, and to objectively summarize and display the amount, type, origin and content of public input so that it can be considered in recommendations for the development of an Approved Master Plan.

## **2. Release, Distribution and Advertising of the Preliminary Master Plan**

The release of the Preliminary Master Plan on June 20, 1977 was announced in the Minister's News Release, and at that time copies of the plan were sent to 157 individuals and organizations on a standard Ministry of Natural Resources mailing list. A copy of the News Release is found in Appendix I. In addition, "Highlights" pamphlets were sent to 3,145 individuals and organizations who had either previously expressed interest in the planning of the Park or had responded to the "Comment Sheet" which was included in the document titled Lake Superior Provincial Park: Master Plan Background Information which was released in 1972.<sup>1</sup>

Copies of the Preliminary Master Plan and the Highlights pamphlet were available at no cost at the Ministry of Natural Resources Regional office in Sault Ste. Marie, the District office in Wawa, and in Lake Superior Park. In Toronto copies of the plan could be obtained for 50¢ from the Ontario Government Bookstore.

<sup>1</sup> During the summer of 1976, visitors registering at the three campgrounds in the Park were given a letter advising them to leave their address if they

were interested in receiving material pertaining to the planning of the Park. A copy of the letter may be found in Appendix II.

Throughout the operating season the existence the plan was well advertised in the campgrounds and day-use areas of the Park. Also, two audio-visual programs dealing with the planning of the Park were shown regularly as part of the evening visitor services programs at Agawa and Rabbit Blanket campgrounds.

On September 7 and 14, advertisements encouraging people to participate in the planning of the Park were carried in The Globe and Mail (outdoor section), The Sault Star, Sault Weekly Shopper and The Algoma News Review. A copy of the

advertisement may be found in Appendix III. The same advertisement was also published in the October issue of a number of magazines including: Leisurewheels, Mobile Travellers, The Ontario Naturalist, Canadian Camper, Angler and Hunter and Out of Doors Magazine. In addition, during a two-week period in September, radio spots advertising the existence of the Preliminary Master Plan were broadcast on a number of radio stations in Algoma. The scheduling and text of the spot advertisements contained in Appendix IV.

Between June 20, 1977 and November 30, 1977, 1,430 plans were sent to interested parties (Table 1).

**Table 1**  
Distribution of Preliminary Master Plan

Source	Number
Toronto (Government Bookstore)	526
Regional Office (Sault Ste. Marie)	208
District Office (Wawa)	176
Lake Superior Park	520
Total	1,430

### 3. Number, Type and Origin of Submission

During the period of June 20, 1977 to November 30, 1977, one hundred and eleven submissions were received from individuals and organizations concerning the Preliminary Master Plan. The majority of the submissions were received from private and individuals residing in Ontario (Tables 2 and 3).

**Table 2**

Type of Submissions

Type of Submission	No.	%
Private Individual	77	69
Business Interests	10	9
Public Organization	19	17
Government Organization	5	5
Total	111	100

**Table 3**

Origin of Submission

Location	No.	%
Algoma	42	38
Other Ontario	58	52
Sub Total	100	90
Other Province	1	1
U.S.A.	10	9
Other	0	0
Total	111	100



#### 4. Analysis of Response to the Preliminary Master Plan

The analysis of the various submissions that were received attempted to answer the following questions: what opinions were expressed concerning proposed management policies, general issues and specific areas; why do individuals or organizations feel as they do — what reasons are given in support of their opinions; and, which clientel interests (e.g. private individuals, business interests, public organizations, etc.) are, or are not, represented. This information is summarized and displayed in the following section.

#### 5. Major Issues

A wide variety of submissions expressing general opinions, well reasoned arguments, specific comments, detailed management proposals and emotional statements were received. Table 4 summarizes those issues that were most frequently referred to in the submissions. It is interesting to note that the proposed policy concerning logging is the only issue that was referred to in more than 60 percent of the submissions.

**Table 4**

Policy Issues Most Frequently Referred  
To In Submissions

Policy Issue	No. of Submissions	%
Logging	70	63
Sport Hunting	42	39
Boundary Extensions	34	32
Campground Improvements	34	31
Trapping	30	27
Status of B.P. Service Centre	28	25
Access to Timber Limits East of the Park	23	21

NOTE: Most submissions dealt with more than one policy issue.

## Logging

Proposed Policy: Commercial timber harvesting will be permitted in recreation-utilization zones which account for 56 percent of the Park area not including the waters of Lake Superior. A Forest Management Plan for the Park will be written.

### Response:

Seventy submissions (63 percent of all submissions) made specific reference to various aspects of the proposed policy concerning logging (Table 5). The majority of these indicated that the commercial harvesting of timber was inappropriate in the Park and should be regarded as temporary and subject to phasing out as soon as possible. Short of the elimination of logging, it was stressed that the development of a forest management plan should be given high priority and that it was essential that the Terms and Conditions for Commercial Timber Harvesting in the Lake Superior Provincial Park be firmly enforced.

**Table 5**

Response to Proposed Policy Concerning Logging

Response	Type of Submissions									
	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	11	20	3	75	1	10	2	100	17	25
Disagree	43	80	1	25	9	90	0	0	53	75
Subtotal	54	100	4	100	10	100	2	100	70	100
No Comment (percent of total response)	23	30	6	60	9	47	3	60	41	37
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100

### Sport Hunting

Summary of Proposed Policy: Sport hunting for moose, grouse and varying hare will be permitted but will be restricted to the central and northern area of the Park east of Highway 17. A Fish and Wildlife Management Plan will be written for the Park.

#### Response:

Forty-three submissions (39 percent of all submissions) commented on the proposed policy concerning hunting (Table 6). The majority of these stated that hunting was inappropriate in the Park and that there was no need — in view of the amount of Crown land available for hunting elsewhere — or important biological reasons, for permitting hunting. In this context, it was generally recommended that hunting be phased out as soon as possible. There was widespread support for the proposal to develop a Fish and Wildlife Management Plan.

**Table 6**

Response to Proposed Policy Concerning Hunting

Response	Type of Submission									
	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	10	30	1	50	2	29	1	100	14	33
Disagree	23	70	1	50	5	71	0	0	29	67
Subtotal	33	100	2	100	7	100	1	100	43	100
No Comment (percent of total response)	44	57	8	80	12	63	4	80	68	61
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100



## Boundary Extensions

### Proposed Policy:

The boundaries of the Park will be extended to include an additional 7,070 ha (17,450 acres) of land and water. The most significant extension will be northward to the Michipicoten River in Rabazo Township immediately south of Wawa.

### Response:

Thirty-six submissions (32 percent of all submissions) made reference to the proposed boundary extensions. The majority of these were in favour of the proposal. The main opposition to the proposal, particularly the proposed expansion northward to the Michipicoten River, came from business interests who felt that the exclusion of mineral prospecting and mining from a geologically favourable area would be shortsighted.

**Table 7**

Response to Proposed Policy Concerning Boundary Extensions

Response	Type of Submission									
	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	22	100	2	33	5	83	1	50	30	83
Disagree	0	0	4	67	1	17	1	50	6	17
Subtotal	22	100	6	100	6	100	2	100	36	100
No Comment (percent of total response)	55	71	4	40	13	68	3	60	75	68
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100

## Upgrading of Services in Campgrounds

### Proposed Policy:

Comfort stations with showers will be built and internal roads will be paved at the Agawa and Rabbit Blanket development zones.

### Response:

Thirty-four submissions (30 percent of all submissions) made reference to the proposed policy to upgrade services in the campgrounds. Submissions were evenly distributed between those for and against the policy. Those who indicated that the upgrading was undesirable felt that additional development would destroy the primitive nature of the campground, encourage cars to travel above safe speed limits and, appeal to a different clientele that is well provided for elsewhere in the Province.

**Table 8**  
Response to Proposed Policy to Upgrade Services in Campgrounds

Response	Type of Submission									
	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	14	47	2	67	1	100	0	0	17	50
Disagree	16	53	1	33	0	0	0	0	17	50
Subtotal	30	100	3	100	1	100	0	0	34	100
No Comment	(percent of total response)									
	47	61	7	70	18	95	5	100	77	69
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100

## Commercial Trapping

### Proposed Policy:

Commercial trapping may be permitted in designated areas of Recreation-Utilization zones and will be phased out of all other zones.

### Response:

The majority of the 30 submissions which discussed the proposed policy concerning trapping indicated that trapping was not suitable in the Park and should be phased out as soon as possible.

**Table 9**

Response to Proposed Policy Concerning Trapping

Type of Submission										
Response	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	6	25	1	100	0	0	1	100	8	27
Disagree	18	75	0	0	4	100	0	0	22	73
Subtotal	24	100	1	100	4	100	1	100	30	100
No Comment (percent of total response)	53	69	9	90	15	79	4	80	81	73
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100



Status of B.P. Service Centre, Agawa Bay

Proposed Policy:

In general, commercial services will not be provided in the Park either by the Ministry of Natural Resources or by concessionaires. In this context, the store-coffee shop-service station facility located at Agawa Bay will ultimately be acquired and the improvements removed.

Response:

Twenty-eight submissions (25 percent of all submissions) made reference to the status of the above noted Service Centre. Opinions were almost evenly distributed between those who agreed and those who disagreed with the policy. The submissions that opposed the removal of the Service Centre emphasized that it was a desirable convenience for campers and that it was an important safety feature, particularly in winter. Also received was a petition signed by 2,577 persons who supported the suggestion that the facility not be removed. The text of the petition may be found in Appendix V.

**Table 10**  
Response to Proposed Policy to Acquire and Remove the B.P. Service Centre

Response	Type of Submission									
	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	12	52	0	0	2	67	0	0	14	50
Disagree	11	48	1	100	1	33	1	100	14	50
Subtotal	23	100	1	100	3	100	1	100	28	100
No Comment (percent of total response)	54	70	9	90	16	84	4	80	83	75
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100

# Road Access to Timber limits East of the Park

## Proposed Policy:

A forest access road will be constructed to cross the Park through Goodwillie Township to provide access for men and service vehicles only to timber limits east of the Park.

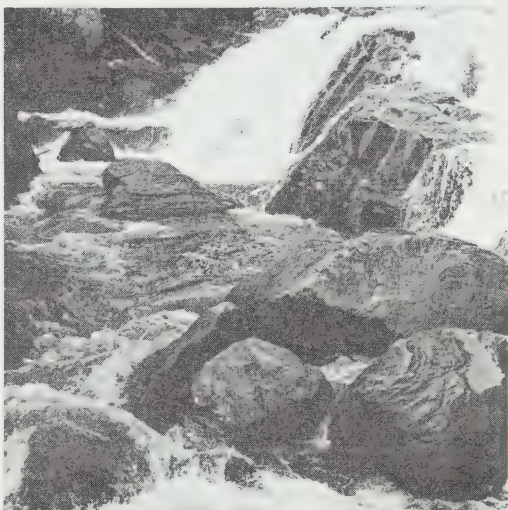
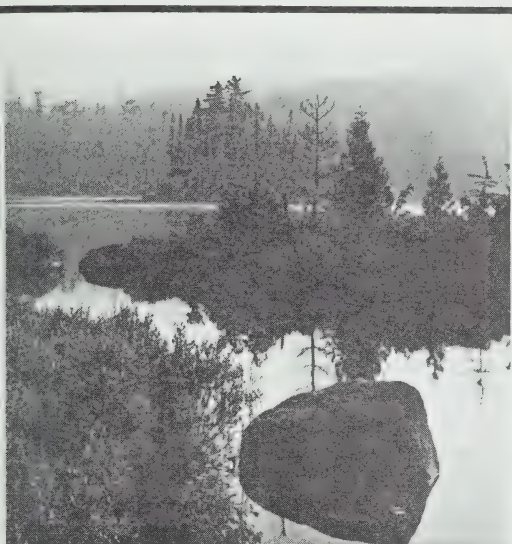
## Response:

Twenty-five submissions (23 percent of all submissions) referred to the proposal to develop a forest access road. The majority of these indicated that the development of the road would set an undesirable precedent for the development of other similar roads.

**Table 11**

Response to Proposed Policy for Road Access to Timber Limits East of the Park

Response	Type of Submission									
	Private Individual		Business Interests		Public Organization		Government Organization		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Agree	7	44	2	67	0	0	1	100	10	40
Disagree	9	56	1	33	5	100	0	0	15	60
Subtotal	16	100	3	100	5	100	1	100	25	100
No Comment (percent of total response)	61	79	7	70	14	74	4	80	86	78
Total Submissions	77	100	10	100	19	100	5	100	111	100





## Appendix 1: News Release

Below is the text of the Minister's News Release of June 20, 1977, advertising the Lake Superior Provincial Park preliminary master plan. Note that the stated date for receipt of submissions is October 1, 1977. This was later extended to November 1, 1977.

### Public Comments are Invited on Lake Superior Park Plan.

Public response to the preliminary master plan for Lake Superior Provincial Park north of Sault Ste. Marie was invited today by Natural Resources Minister Frank S. Miller.

Mr. Miller said that the Ministry of Natural Resources will publicize its proposals for future development of the 33-year-old, 601 square-mile provincial park as widely as possible over the next few months among park users, Algoma residents, and interested groups and individuals throughout Ontario.

"Public participation is the keystone of effective planning, and everyone is invited to submit comments on the plan in any form between now and October 1, 1977. I look forward to constructive public review of this plan for one of Ontario's largest and best known parks," the Minister said.

Comments regarding the preliminary master plan should be sent to: Regional Director, Northeastern Region, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 1900, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5N9.<sup>1</sup>

The preliminary master plan proposes detailed policy guidelines for the future preservation, development and management of the park as well as background information on its past and present.

Some proposals of the plan:

— Lake Superior Park would continue to be classified as a natural environment park with low intensity recreational use. Twenty-six percent of the park would be zoned as wilderness or nature reserve.

— The park would be expanded by 27 square miles. The major proposed addition would be northward to the Michipicoten River in Rabazo Township, immediately south of Wawa.

— Commercial logging would continue in 49 per cent of the park. Logging within zones set aside for this purpose would be carefully managed and would not interfere with other park activities.

— Commercial trapping would be permitted in designated areas.

— Sport hunting of moose, grouse, and snowshoe hare would be restricted to the central and northern areas of the park, east of Highway 17.

— Motor boats would not be permitted except on Sand Lake and Lake Superior.

— No new day-use areas or car campgrounds would be developed along Highway 17 at this time. Interior hiking trails, and a small hike-in campground at Gargantua Harbour on Lake Superior would be developed.

There will be no charge for the condensed summary of the plan, which may be obtained from Ministry of Natural Resources offices in Sault Ste. Marie, Wawa, and Lake Superior Park, and the Ontario Bookstore at 880 Bay Street, Toronto.

The complete preliminary master plan may also be obtained without charge at Lake Superior Provincial Park offices, or at a cost of 50¢ from the Government Bookstore.

For More Information:

Norman Richards<sup>2</sup>  
Master Planning Supervisor  
Park Planning Branch  
Toronto (416) 965-3981

James Lever<sup>3</sup>  
Regional Parks Co-ordinator  
Northeastern Region  
Sault Ste. Marie (705) 949-1780

<sup>1</sup> The Regional Director's office has since been moved to 174 Douglas Street West, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 1G1.

<sup>2</sup> Norman Richards has since been transferred. His replacement is G. D. Boggs, Planning Supervisor.

<sup>3</sup> James Lever has since been transferred. His replacement is C. D. Clark.

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## Appendix II: Letter to Park Visitors

The following is the text of the letter distributed to visitors in Lake Superior Provincial Park during the summer of 1976.

Dear Park Visitor:

I hope you are enjoying your visit to Lake Superior Provincial Park. Maintaining and improving the quality of your experience here depends upon careful planning of this Park. It is the policy of the Ministry to prepare Master Plans for all Provincial Parks. Lake Superior's Master Plan will establish detailed guidelines for development and management of resources and recreation within the Park. The plan will attempt to ensure the wisest conservation of the Park's outstanding landscape and its special natural and cultural features. It will also provide for recreation opportunities which best use the special qualities of the Park landscape and which best meet your needs and those of other Park users.

Planning Ontario's third largest accessible park is a lengthy process. In 1972 public input into the future of this Park was solicited. The views of Park users and regional and provincial residents will again be required in the near future. We are providing all park visitors with an opportunity to contribute to planning the Park. If you are interested in participating, please write in your name and address below and return this letter to the Office Clerk. We will then in the future mail you information on the Park which will provide you with an opportunity to participate in shaping its direction and will enable us to better respond to your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

R. Alton, District Manager<sup>1</sup>  
Wawa District  
Wawa, Ontario  
Tel. (705) 856-2396

.....  
Lake Superior Provincial Park  
Master Planning Programme  
Public Participation/1976 Park Office Visitors

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code or Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

---

<sup>1</sup> R. Alton has since been transferred. W. J. Straight is currently the District Manager.

### Appendix III: Printed Advertisement

Below is a copy of the newspaper advertisement printed September 7 and September 14, 1977 in The Globe and Mail (Toronto), The Sault Star, Sault Weekly Shopper, The Algoma News Review (Wawa) and six periodicals.

(NOTE the extension to November 1, 1977 from October 1, for receiving comments.)

## WE WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP IN PLANNING LAKE SUPERIOR PROVINCIAL PARK.

We have recently completed a preliminary master plan for Lake Superior Provincial Park and are now inviting public reaction to the proposals it contains for the park's future preservation development, and management.

These proposals call for the area to be kept as a natural environment park. Only low-intensity recreational activities, such as boating, camping and hiking, would be allowed as well as some logging, hunting and trapping.

Lake Superior Provincial Park is one of Ontario's most beautiful natural areas. If you would like the opportunity to comment on the proposals for its future, please let us know and we will send you a copy of the preliminary master plan. Write to

Regional Director  
Northeastern Region  
Ontario Ministry of  
Natural Resources  
Box 1900  
Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario  
P6A 5N9

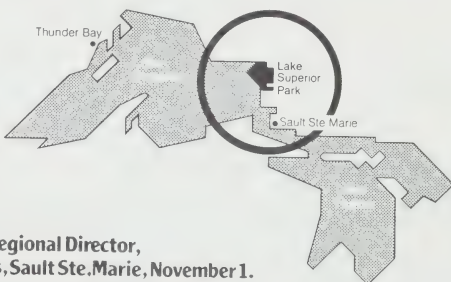
You can also obtain a copy of

the preliminary master plan from  
the Ontario Government Book-  
store, 880 Bay St., Toronto,  
Ontario, M7A 1N6.



Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Ken Frank S. M. 1977  
Dr. J. K. Reynolds,  
Deputy Minister



**Send your comments to the Regional Director,  
Ministry of Natural Resources, Sault Ste. Marie, November 1.**

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#### Appendix IV: Radio Advertisement

Below is the text of the sixty second radio advertisement broadcasted by radio stations CKCY, CJWA, CJNR, CKNR, and CKNS twice daily during the two week period of September 5 to 16, 1977, and broadcasted by CFYN and CHAS-FM alternately once and twice daily during the same two week period.

##### Radio Script

"The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources would like your help in planning Lake Superior Provincial Park. As you may know, this park north of Sault Ste. Marie has been undergoing considerable study in recent years, and a preliminary master plan has just been completed outlining proposals for its future presentation, development and management. These proposals call for the area to be kept as a natural environment park. Only low-intensity recreational activities, such as boating, camping and hiking, would be allowed as well as some logging, hunting and trapping. If you have any opinions or ideas concerning the future of Lake Superior Provincial Park, the Ministry of Natural Resources would like to hear from you by November 1st. For more information and copies of the preliminary master plan, contact the Regional Director, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 1900, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5N9, Telephone - 949-1780. That address again: Regional Director, Ministry of Natural Resources, Box 1900, Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, P6A 5N9."<sup>1</sup>

#### Appendix V: Petition

Below is the text of the petition regarding the B.P. Service Centre. There were 2,577 signatures on this petition.

We the undersigned agree

1. The Agawa Sportmen's Restaurant & Service Centre are performing necessary services at their present location.
2. That we give our support in their desire to remain at their present location.

---

<sup>1</sup> Address has since changed to 174 Douglas Street West, Sudbury, Ontario, P3E 1G1, Telephone - 673-1111.









Ministry of  
Natural  
Resources

Hon. James A. C. Auld  
Minister  
Dr. J. K. Reynolds  
Deputy Minister



*July 1979*

